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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re : Akira Suzuki  
Japanese Application No. : 2000-214487  
Priority Date : July 14, 2000  
FOR : COOKING UTENSIL  
Lowell, Massachusetts  
July 11, 2001

**EXPRESS MAIL NO. EF 374 418 849 US**

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**In the Claims**

Please amend Claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 as follows:

4. (Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.